

## **BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – November 17, 2009**

- John Carman called the Committee to order at 7:35 p.m.
- John Carman announced he has invited Nancy Abeles of the Bethesda Crest Home Owners Association to be another “guest” at the Committee table. Bethesda Crest is a townhome community located at the northwest corner of the Rockville Pike/Cedar Lane intersection and would be impacted directly if funding becomes available for SHA to add a turn lane at that corner.
- Phil Alperson gave the following updates (NOTE: these notes provide more detail than was reported at the BIC meeting):
  - **Phil introduced Captain Mike Malanoski of Navy Support Activity-Bethesda.** Mike was formerly NNMC base Commander and a frequent BIC attendee was more recently had been assigned to BUMED. He has subsequently been assigned back to the NNMC campus as Navy Support Activity-Bethesda. This represents part of the BRAC evolution of the Medical Center. By 2011, the Hospital will be a joint military command located at the Bethesda base, but the base itself will be a Navy-managed installation with its own command. Capt. Malanoski represents the Base Command. Captain Zinder, who was not present today, will continue to represent the Hospital Command on the BIC
  - **UPDATED BRAC PROJECT INFORMATION:** Phil reminded the Committee that the BRAC web site always has an updated Projects Matrix, which shows the integrated multi-modal ways the transportation impacts of BRAC are being addressed: intersection, transit, pedestrian, bicycle, and transportation demand management enhancements.
    - **BRAC TRANSPORTATION PROJECT MATRIX, as of 11-19-09:**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo\\_project\\_matrix-111909.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo_project_matrix-111909.pdf)
    - **BRAC INVESTMENT PRIORITIES:** Phased implementation based on funding streams, as of 9-25-09:  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/bracprojects-tiers-100609.pdf>
  - **GOVERNOR'S BRAC SUBCABINET WILL CONVENE IN BETHESDA** on November 19, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the BCC Rescue Squad (2nd floor reception hall), at 5020 Battery Lane (corner of Old Georgetown Road). This is a public meeting hosted by Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and County

Executive Ike Leggett, and follows up on the Subcabinet meeting in Montgomery County two years ago.

- Maryland BRAC site: <http://www.brac.maryland.gov/>
- Governor's BRAC Subcabinet site:  
<http://www.brac.maryland.gov/subcabinet.asp>

- **MDOT's ANNUAL "ROAD SHOW" CONVENED IN ROCKVILLE** on November 12. This was a preview of the State's DRAFT Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) for FY2010-2015. There was vigorous discussion on BRAC issues.

- More info on the DRAFT CTP:  
[http://www.mdot.state.md.us/Planning/2009\\_ctp\\_tour/Draft%20CTP%2010-15](http://www.mdot.state.md.us/Planning/2009_ctp_tour/Draft%20CTP%2010-15)

- **10-28-09 President Obama signed into law HR 2647, the FY2010 Defense Authorization Bill.** This bill includes specific language about Bethesda BRAC traffic, transit and pedestrian safety issues. Special thanks to Congressman Van Hollen, our Senators and their staffs for working this through the legislative process: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/default-hr2647-fy10confrept-walterreedbethesda-100709.pdf>.

- The Committee discussed parts of that language that called on NNMC to present a comprehensive master plan including plans to mitigate traffic issues on and off the campus. Ollie Oliveria indicated that the Navy cannot mitigate congestion off its base but is working diligently to address congestion issues on-campus and has been cooperating with local authorities on the pedestrian underpass, intersections, and TDM.

- **OEA Conference was held in Orlando in first week of November:** Attended by Gary Erenrich of MC-DOT, Gary Stith of MC Dept. of General Services, and Shahriar Etemadi of M-NCPPC. This was an opportunity for the various BRAC-impacted communities across the country to share notes and discuss strategies: <http://www.oea.gov/OEAWeb.nsf/Home?OpenForm>

- **The Government Accountability Office published an updated report on BRAC construction cost overruns, particularly related to the closure of WRAMC:**

- 11-15-09 Audit reviews BRAC savings -- GAO Report: 2005 round of base closures to cost more, save less

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20091115/NEWS02/311159954>

- 11-13-09 Government Accountability Office Report GAO-10-98R: Military Base Realignments and Closures: Estimated Costs Have Increased While Savings Estimates Have Decreased Since Fiscal Year 2009 (23 pp) <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d1098r.pdf>
- **QUESTION ABOUT DECEMBER BIC MEETING.** Phil raised the question whether the scheduled December 15 BIC meeting would pose holiday conflicts for members. It was the consensus that the meeting should proceed as scheduled.
- **NNMC UPDATES:** Adding to the discussion about the NNMC Master Plan, Ollie Oliveria noted that the Joint Task Force (JTF) Master Plan is being developed for military medical care in the National Capital Region, including at NNMC/WRNMMC Bethesda, Fort Belvoir, and Andrews AFB (Malcolm Grow). NNMC is committed to doing what it said it would do in its Master Plan submission to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
- **COMMUNITY UPDATE:** Ilaya Hopkins reported that members of the Coalition of Military Medical Center Neighbors have been attending public meetings and meeting separately with elected and appointed officials. They have stressed that piecemeal approaches to mitigate congestion are not acceptable when there are better long-term solutions. Ken Strickland raised a concern that the BRAC Subcabinet meeting, which was scheduled for just one hour in the middle of the day, would provide adequate opportunity for public input.
- **STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATION: “Transportation Investment Priorities” – phased BRAC project implementation based on available, projected, and/or requested funding.**
  - Barb Solberg detailed the prioritization of intersections projects. Improvements designed at each of the four major intersections have been broken down into phases based on cost/benefit and opportunities to create break-out projects. These phases, in turn, have been prioritized into four “tiers” that would be implemented based on available funding
  - Committee members inquired about who made decisions regarding Tiers and Phases. Edgar Gonzalez of MC-DOT noted that the County and State transportation officials conferred on the plans, and the County Executive has endorsed their decisions based on months of public discussion and input. Ron Wilson of NIH expressed concern that these decisions have not been approved by

## BRAC Transportation Investment Priorities

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NIH, which would be asked to give up ROW. Andy Scott noted that these are the kinds of coordinating issues that will be managed as the plans become more concrete. Larry Cole noted that Park & Planning will hold mandatory referral hearings early in 2010.

- Barb presented her PowerPoint which detailed the Tiers and Phases: ***“Transportation Investment Priorities” – phased BRAC project implementation based on available, projected, and/or requested funding.*** The presentation details each phase of the four intersections projects and how they are distributed among prioritized “Tiers.” The presentation also describes the cost and projected benefits of each phase:  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/tiers-transportinvestmentpriorities-111709.pdf>. This URL is a 33-page file. A single summary page is attached to this meeting summary.

- Tier One includes projects for which funding has been identified and is, or soon will be, available.
- Tier Two Projects would be funded by anticipated under the Defense Access Road (DAR) program and by TIGER Grant requests, if approved.
  - ***\$20 million TIGER Grant request for pedestrian underpass*** at Medical Center Metro station. This request was submitted in two forms – as a stand-alone request by the County, and as part of a much larger regional COG Transit-oriented development grant;
  - ***\$20 million anticipated funding for the pedestrian underpass*** under the Defense Access Road program (this has been penciled into the FY2011 DOD budget.
  - ***\$20 million for BRAC intersections improvements***, submitted by MDOT as part of a larger TIGER Grant request for state-wide BRAC intersections;
- Tier Three projects do not have identified sources of funding.
- Tier Four includes long-range concepts that require planning before they can move forward as meaningful projects.

- ***TIER ONE PROJECTS – FUNDED:***

- ***Rockville Pike @ Cedar Lane, Phases 1 and 2*** – these take place along MD 355 south of Cedar Lane:
  - Add one southbound lane with a dedicated right turn into Wilson Drive (NIH);
  - Add one northbound lane from North Wood Drive (NNMC) with a dedicated right turn onto Cedar Lane;
  - Add a ½ signal (a.m. peak only) to facilitate southbound left turns into North Wood Drive;
  - Increase southbound left turn storage at North Wood Drive;
  - Add northbound left turn storage at NIH inspection facility;
  - Replace two culverts beneath 355/Cedar Lane;

- Re-striping, but not widening, on Cedar Lane to facilitate turns and traffic flow
  - Concerns were raised whether improved Kiss & Ride pull-offs will be included. There is no final design at this point.
- ***Connecticut Ave @ Jones Bridge Road, Phase 1:***
  - Add one southbound lane from I-495 with a dedicated right turn onto Jones Bridge Road
    - This would facilitate traffic at the am peak but not pm peak. This is the project that could have significant impacts on Chevy Chase Valley for access and safety. A concept to extend Platt Ridge Road into Chevy Chase Valley through parkland northbound from Jones Bridge Road was discussed by County officials.
- ***Rockville Pike @ Jones Bridge Road, Phase 1-A:***
  - Dynamic Lane Control – variable electronic signaling to create two southbound left turn lanes onto JBR during the pm peak.
- ***TIER TWO PROJECTS – DAR & TIGER REQUESTS PENDING:***
  - ***Rockville Pike @ Jones Bridge Road, Phase 1-B:***
    - Add one southbound lane adjacent to NIH, in order to create permanent double-left turn onto Jones Bridge Road.
  - ***Connecticut Ave. @ Jones Bridge Road, Phase 3*** (note that Phase 2 is in Tier Three):
    - Reduce the median on Connecticut Avenue, north and south of Jones Bridge Road, to create an additional northbound lane.
      - There was discussion of the possibility of removing the median to create a reversible lane, but this was deemed a hazard for pedestrian safety.
  - ***Old Georgetown Road @ Cedar Lane, Phase 1*** (project's only phase):
    - Extend Trolley Trail south from north of Cedar Lane to NIH;
    - Widening along southbound Old Georgetown Road south of Cedar Lane in order to create new northbound lane with a dedicated right turn onto Cedar Lane
- ***TIER THREE PROJECTS -- NOT FUNDED:***
  - ***Rockville Pike @ Cedar Lane, Phases 3-5:***
    - Widen Cedar Lane east and west of Rockville Pike to create dedicated turn lanes and realign culverts along Cedar Lane;

- Create an additional northbound lane north of Cedar Lane by widening along the ROW adjacent to, but not infringing upon, the service road parallel to MD 355.
  - Create an additional southbound lane north of Cedar Lane, to be a dual right turn onto Cedar Lane and through lane along MD 355.
    - Nancy Abeles noted that this is the project that would directly impact Bethesda Crest, including the taking of HOA property.
- ***Connecticut Ave. @ Jones Bridge Road, Phase 2:***
    - Widen Jones Bridge Road west and east of Connecticut Avenue along the south side of Jones Bridge Road in order to create an additional left turn lane onto northbound Connecticut Avenue and reduce congestion along JBR east of Connecticut Avenue during the pm rush.
      - Safety concerns were raised about multiple left-turns and weaving during the pm rush.
- ***TIER FOUR PROJECTS*** – Concepts requiring further study:
    - ***Concepts include but aren't limited to: direct Beltway access to NNMC, an interchange at 355/Cedar Lane, bus access improvements, enhanced Metro capacity, and a wider area-wide corridor study.***
- **John Carman solicited questions from the audience.** There was a question about proposed bike lanes along Cedar Lane. This will be studied as part of the bike/pedestrian project under way by MC-DOT.
  - **John said the December committee agenda would include further discussion of the SHA intersections project,** with information from Edgar Gonzalez about relevant timelines for planning and construction. He suggested a possible follow-up from John Carter of the Park & Planning Commission of his July presentation on long-range community planning.
  - **The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 7:30 p.m., at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

**Committee members in attendance, November 17, 2009:**

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator

John Carman, Committee Chairman

Larry Cole, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

Lulu Gonella, Chevy Chase View

Edgar Gonzalez, Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Leslie Weber for Brian Gagnolati, Suburban Hospital

Ken Hartman, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center  
Ilaya Hopkins, East Bethesda Citizens Assn.  
Ginanne Italiano, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce  
Ed Krauze, Bethesda-Parkview Citizens Association  
Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Association  
Seth Maiman, Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board  
Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Home Owners Association  
George Milne, Stone Ridge School  
Patrick O'Neill, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce  
Andy Scott, MDOT  
Paul Thaler, Locust Hill Citizens Association  
Sara Morningstar for Melanie Wenger, Montgomery County Office of Intergovt. Relations  
Ron Wilson for Dan Wheeland, NIH

**Ex-officio:**

Delegate Bill Bronrott  
Ken Reichard (Sen. Ben Cardin)  
Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)  
Susan Buffone (Council Member Roger Berliner)  
Jeff Miller, NNMC Transportation Program Manager  
David "Ollie" Oliveria, NNMC BRAC Program Manager  
Captain Michael Malanoski, NNMC Naval Support Activity

**Other Attendees**

J. Abeles, Bethesda Crest  
Nancy Abeles, Bethesda Crest Home Owners Association  
Gerald Cichy, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)  
Stacey Granger (sp?)  
Susan Hinton, NIH  
Greg Humes, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association  
John Keppel  
Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont  
Avice Meehan, Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
Jeanette Musil, Office of Economic Adjustment  
Mal Rivkin  
Lashdeep Singh  
Barb Solberg, SHA  
Matt Snare, SHA  
Ken Strickland, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association  
Ann Thompson, Chevy Chase Park  
Marylee Tietz, Locust Hills  
Andrew Ujifusa, Gazette Newspapers  
Julie Woepke, Maryland DBED, Office of Military and Federal Affairs  
Judith Wortman